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ABSTRACT

A current trend in testing is to use pictorial methods of assessing various traits. The original American edition of the Geist Picture Interest Inventory consisted of 129 pictures of vocations and three of hobbies. The inventory has been adapted for use in various countries and cultures in which the pictures are changed to suit the cultures of the respective country and the relatively small verbal portion of the inventory is translated into the language of the country. A Philippine version was created and a standardization was undertaken on 479 boys and 242 girls ranging in age from 15 to 18 years in various schools on Luzon. The occupational choices in the Philippines and the United States were compared cross-culturally. For the males in both countries, computational and literary interests were high. For the females, the interests were almost identical in the two cultures. The differences in vocational interests between the cultures as a whole suggest that the atomic age has spread to the youth of the Philippines as well as to those of the United States and that the vocational interests of the two countries are more similar than different. (ABL)

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A Comparison of Occupational Choice in the U.S.A. and the Philippines

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The difficulties associated with verbal tests have been plaguing those concerned with vocational guidance in the United States and other parts of the world for some time. A trend in current testing is to "get away" from verbal testing and to employ the pictorial method of assessing various traits. The earliest attempt to measure interests by means of pictures was made by Giles in Australia in 1936. Other People in other countries have followed this lead in the United States and other parts of the world, and I, while pursuing my doctoral studies at Stanford University in the United States, devised a pictorial interest inventory.

The original American edition of the Geist Picture Interest Inventory (GPII) consists of 129 pictures of vocations and three of hobbies. The pictures are presented in tried form with a forced choice of selection of one of these pictures. Scoring categories are in the following areas: Male Edition--persuasive, clerical, mechanical, scientific, musical, outdoor, literary, computational, artistic, social service, and dramatic. The female edition

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has the same scales with the addition of a personal service area. There is also a semi-projective portion of the instrument where motivating forces behind occupational choice are assessed by asking the testee questions about pictures of choice or "lack of choice."

The Inventory has been adapted for use in various countries and different cultures. The pictures are changed to suit the cultures of the respective country and the relatively small verbal portion of the Instrument translated into the language of the country. At present there is a Puerto Rican edition where the pictures are the same as the American Mainland edition but all verbal material has been translated into Spanish. There are also currently Italian, Brazilian (verbal portion Portuguese), Latin Spanish for Central and South America, German, Philippine, French Canadian, Indian, French, and Japanese editions. In each of these the pictures are altered to suit the culture, a standardization done in that country, verbal portion translated into the language of the respective country, and the instrument published in that country. In some countries there are male and female editions, and in others only male editions. Adaptations are being prepared for South Africa, Mainland China and Thailand. A grant was given by the Asia Foundation to the Philippine Psychological Corporation for the development and standardization of the Philippine edition of the Inventory. Under the direction of Dr.

Estefania Aldaba Lim, pictures were changed to suit the Philippine culture and a standardization was done on 479 boys and 242 girls ranging in age from 15 to 18 years in various schools on Luzon.

Experimental Design

In order to do a cross cultural comparison of occupational choices in the Philippines and the U.S.A., the mean raw score for each scale was computed for the male and female samples in the Philippines and comparable samples in the U.S.A. using the American edition of the Inventory for the American sample and the Philippine edition for the female sample. This was divided by the total possible number of items in each scale chosen by each sample. The three highest and three lowest scales were then tabulated indicating the highest and lowest areas of interest for each country. The N for each sample in each country is as follows:

N

	Male	Female	Total
U.S.	850	465	1,315
Philippines	479	242	721

The U.S. sample consisted of students in grades 6-12. Essentially it was a middle class group with an age range of approximately 15-18 years and was done in various school

districts in the state of California. In the Philippines the standardization was done on male and female students in the private and public high schools, but for the purpose of this study only the private school sample was used. Only public high school students were used in the American sample. The Philippine sample was in the same age range and economic status as the American sample.

Results

U.S. Sample--Male

Highest*	Lowest**
1. Computational	1. Dramatic
2. Literary	2. Social Service
3. Outdoor	3. Musical

Philippine Sample--Male

Highest	Lowest
1. Computational)	1. Dramatic
1. Scientific) tied	2. Musical
2. Literary	3. Outdoor)
3. Clerical	3. Mechanical) tied
	3. Artistic)

U.S. Sample--Female

Highest	Lowest
1. Literary	1. Dramatic
2. Persuasive	2. Mechanical
3. Musical	3. Outdoor

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*In descending order--the highest area is first

**In ascending order--the lowest area is first

Philippine Sample--Female

Highest	Lowest
1. Musical	1. Dramatic
2. Persuasive	2. Outdoor
3. Literary	3. Personal Service) tied
	3. Mechanical)

Discussion

First upon inspection of the high and low areas of interest we see a remarkable comparison between the high and low areas of interest in each culture. For the males in both countries, computational and literary interests are high in both countries. In the Philippines sample, clerical interests replaces outdoor in the "high" interest area of the American sample and becomes a "low" interest area for the Philippine boys. Just what the explanation for this is not known, since Philippines males seem to have as much sports and kindred interests as American males. In the "low" interest areas for males in both countries dramatic and musical interests are low but social service "low" interest in the American group has been supplanted by outdoors, mechanical and artistic interests in the Philippines. Evidently in this sample Philippine boys have very strong professional interests in the computational, scientific, and literary areas which supplant other interests such as outdoor which one usually thinks of in terms of adolescent boys.

For females it will be noted that the areas of high

interest for the Philippines are almost identical with those of the U.S. sample. Likewise the areas of low interest are remarkably similar. It is interesting to note that the personal service area in the female Philippine sample was in the lowest areas of interest but not in the U.S. sample. The differences in the areas of vocational interest between the sexes within each culture are much greater than the differences in vocational interests between the cultures as a whole indicating that the atomic age has indeed spread to the youth of the Philippines as well as the United States and that in the area of vocational interests the youth of the two countries are more similar than different.

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